

According to the amendment required, the sequence can vary. One in particular with deserves special mention is the sequence for cancelling a flight plan. It is of course, very important that this does not happen by error and so when the controller uses the touch wire labelled "ERASE," the computer is programmed to present the words "CONFIRM ERASURE OF KL104" for example. This illustrates the way in which the touch display can be used to alert the controller at critical phases in operation.

Of course other possible applications exist and if the display process has adequate flexibility to present solutions to a problem pictorially then by appropriate labelling of the touch wires corresponding to the solution the choice can be indicated by a single operation. Again, another interesting possibility is the case of rarely used procedures, for example, EMERGENCY. Here the instructions can be presented in plain language e.g., "alert fire brigade," "you must now choose to do . . . or to do . . ." and so on. The computer ensures that not only does the controller clearly understand what is to be done but ensures that no omissions occur.

I claim:

1. Apparatus for indicating to an output means which portion of a data-representing image on a viewing means has been selected for further processing comprising

display means including means for generating visible images, input means connected to said means for generating visible images for altering said image on said display means and viewing means responsive to said generating means for displaying said visible images,

a plurality of touch sensitive contact means sensitive to a change in impedance presented by touching by the human body, said contact means being placed adjacent said viewing means for indicating which portion of the image on said viewing means has been selected, the position of said touch sensitive contact means selected with respect to said viewing means being related to the position of the selected portion of said image on said viewing means, and

sensing means for determining and indicating to said output means which of said touch sensitive contacts has been activated.

2. The apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein said plurality of touch sensitive contact means are arranged in rows and columns and said sensing means is adapted to determine which of said touch sensitive contact means

has been actuated by determining in which of said rows and said columns said actuated contact means is located.

3. The apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein said means for generating visible images is a cathode ray tube and said viewing means is a screen mounted on and responsive to said cathode ray tube.

4. The apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein manual actuation of said touch sensitive contact means causes a capacitance change across the actuated contact means and said sensing means comprises a means for detecting a capacitance change at each of said touch sensitive contacts.

5. The apparatus defined in claim 4 wherein said means for detecting a capacitance change comprises a normally balanced alternating current bridge circuit adapted to be unbalanced by a change in capacitance caused by actuation of one of said touch sensitive contacts.

6. The apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein each of said touch sensitive contact means include a first contact and a second contact and said sensing means comprises means for detecting a resistance change between said first and second contacts of the selected contact means.

7. The apparatus defined in claim 6 wherein said means for detecting a resistance change between said first and said second contacts of said selected contact means comprises normally balanced alternating current bridge means adapted to detect said resistance change.

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